Opening of Qutub Minarto public

1973. SHRI EKANATH K.THAKUR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the first floor of the Qutub Minar was slated to be opened to the public by May, 2004 but the opening is becoming a remote possibility each day;

(b) whether it is a fact that according to the Director, ASI, its implementation is difficult;

(c) if so, the reasons for delay in opening Qutub Minar to public; and

(d) the action taken or propose to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No, Sir. However, a decision in principle has been taken to open the Qutub Minar for the public upto the first floor.

(b) and (c) Adequate security and safety measures need to be ensured before a final decision is taken.

(d) Necessary repairs and other works relating to security and safety of Qutub Minar are in progress.

Indo-Pak Cultural relations

1974. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a two-day session has been held in Delhi on the 3rd and 4th August, 2004 between the Culture Secretaries of India and Pakistan on the promotion of friendly exchanges;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any decision has been taken to enhance the pilgrim travel to temples, mosques and Gurudwaras in both the countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what other matters and issues have been discussed and decisions taken during this two-day session?